

Summer 2010

# Social Studies

# Summer Learning

# Packet

## Grades 9-12

## Introduction

The student activities in this packet are designed to reinforce major social studies concepts and skills, while also being fun and interesting. It is also hoped that these activities will encourage family interaction.

This packet has been adapted from Miami-Dade County Public Schools,  
<http://www.dadeschools.net/winterBreak/default.asp>

## Activities

- Write a **rap song** about a key personality in history or a national figure currently in the news. As an alternative, if you prefer not to write about a person, you could write a rap song about a past or current event in history. Before writing the lyrics, do some research on this individual or event and include at least three interesting facts you learned in your rap.
- Write a **journal entry** for a person who lived during a time period that you studied in your social studies class. Research this individual to understand what events he or she was involved in during this time, and use that information to predict how he or she might have been feeling, what he or she may have been concerned or excited about, etc. For example, you could pretend that you are Booker T. Washington leading the Tuskegee Institute.
- Write a **dialogue** between two imaginary or real people in history that focuses on their discussion of an important historical event. History is virtually unlimited in opportunities to “imagine” hypothetical discussions. For example, an imaginary discussion between British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and United States’ President Harry Truman on whether or not to drop the atomic bomb on Japan during World War II would be an interesting topic.
- Create a **comic strip** about living in a multicultural community like D.C. You may choose to make your comic strip serious or comical; however, your comic strip should deliver a message that emphasizes the richness of living in a multicultural community. Before beginning your comic strip, brainstorm what you have observed as a member of a multicultural community. For example, what are some of the experiences or opportunities you have been exposed to through your community? What do you like most about your community? What have you learned about from other cultures (e.g., foods, arts, music, dance, etc.)?
- Write a **letter** to President Barack Obama and describe three issues or concerns you wish to see him address during his presidency. Explain why these issues or concerns are important to you and the nation. Explain how you would resolve these problems if you were President.

Note what some of the challenges would be in implementing your recommended solutions and brainstorm ways to overcome those challenges.

- Draw a **political cartoon** that addresses a need or concern in your local community. For instance, if graffiti is a concern in your neighborhood, consider drawing a political cartoon with graffiti as its focus. Write a 2-3 paragraph explanation of your cartoon, explaining how you think the issue depicted could be resolved. Also include how you, individually, could start acting to resolve this issue.
- Select a conflict in history that you have studied as part of your most recent social studies class. Write a **summary of each side's point of view** in the conflict.
- Voter turnout in most elections in the United States is very low. Local elections typically have lower voter participation than the national elections that take place every two or four years. Some argue that the low voter turnout is not good for a democracy. If you had the power to make a change, what would you do to increase voter turnout for local and national elections in the United States? What could you do tomorrow, as an individual, to start making this change happen? Write a **3-5 paragraph argument** for your point of view.